

Elden Tefft's Walking Tour of Lawrence



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).

Craig Voorhees 2011

When Elden Tefft retired as Professor Emeritus from Kansas University in 1990, he was given the State of Kansas Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement. In addition to forty years teaching classes at K.U., Professor Tefft traveled to 21 foreign countries researching bronze casting techniques and setting up bronze foundries. The association of sculptors he created is now the largest in the world. Before he disseminated the "lost wax" casting technique, sculptors in the U.S. wanting their work cast in bronze had to send it off to Europe. As a result of Elden's work, the lost wax method is now standard in bronze foundries across the country.

Although his main claim to fame lies in the field of education, Elden Tefft is an internationally recognized artist in his own right. His work has been exhibited at 39 shows across the country including the San Francisco Museum of Art, the Nelson-Atkins, and the Associated American Artists gallery in New York.

There are nine examples of Elden Tefft's work on the K.U. campus that are available to the public. The following pages contain directions for a walking tour of these pieces on campus. Classroom buildings are generally open 7a.m. - 10 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. There are also two other sites listed in the City of Lawrence that display his work.

Park in the Student Union garage on the 1200 block of Mississippi. Take the elevator up to level 4 and follow the segue across to the Student Union. You will exit the segue on level 2 of the Union and follow the hall straight back to the Main Stairs apposite the Book Store. Turn right and find the Seal of the University of Kansas on the right side of the stair well.



The University Seal

Go back to the main hall and turn right to find the Saramanawk on your right with a display of other Jayhawks. The Saramanawk is the largest one, with others of Elden's Jayhawks on the table next to it.



2 Saramanawk

Go back past the stairs and take the elevator up to level 6. Exit the elevator right and then immediately turn left and go out onto the balcony running along the end of the ballroom. When you have crossed it, turn right and find Elden's Centennial Medallion on the wall outside the Centennial room three doors down.



3 Centennial Medallion

Go back to the elevator and take it down to level four. Turn right and then left to exit the building through the main doors of the lobby. Cross Jayhawk Boulevard, go left down the sidewalk to Smith Hall, the School of Religion, and find Moses kneeling in front of the building.



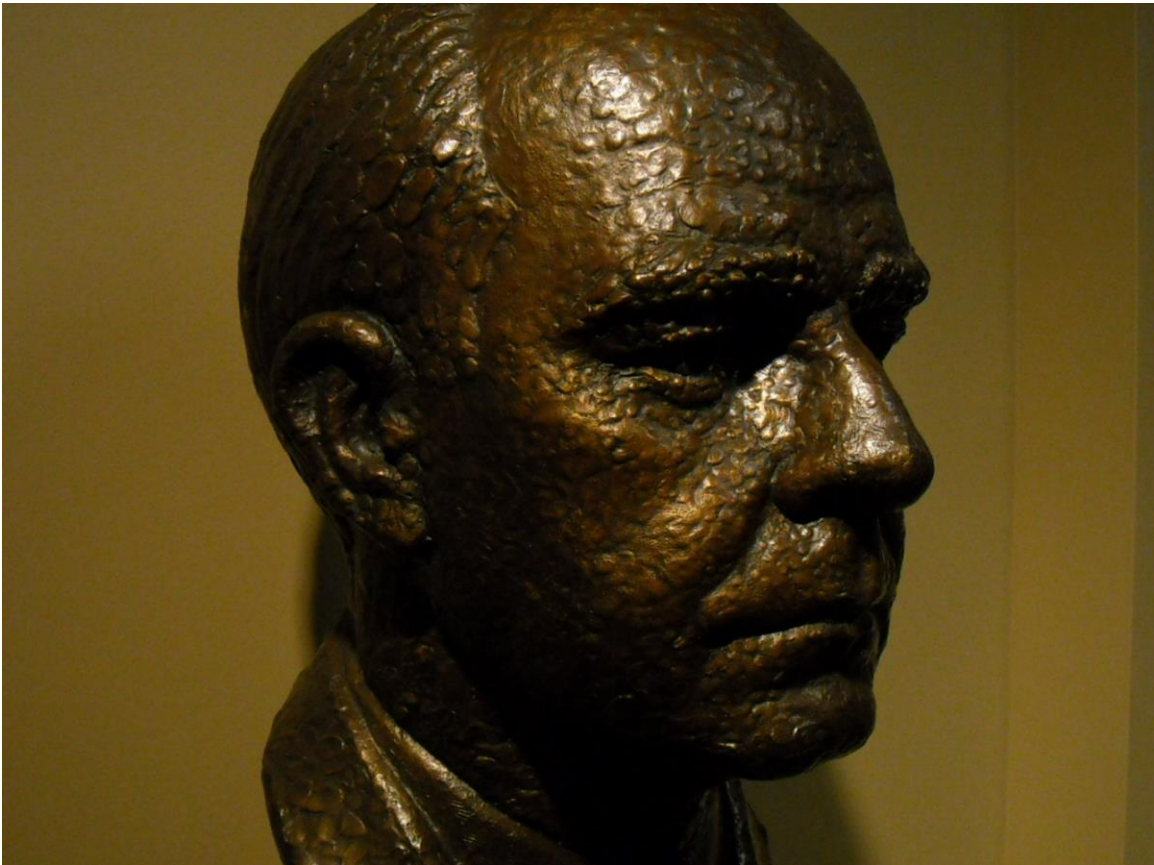
Turn around and head left back up Jayhawk Boulevard onto campus. Jayhawk Boulevard curves to the right past Watson Library to Sunflower Road. Cross Sunflower and go left on the sidewalk and then turn right to enter Stoffer-Flint Hall. Turn left to find Elden's bust of William Allan White around the corner out in the hall.



5

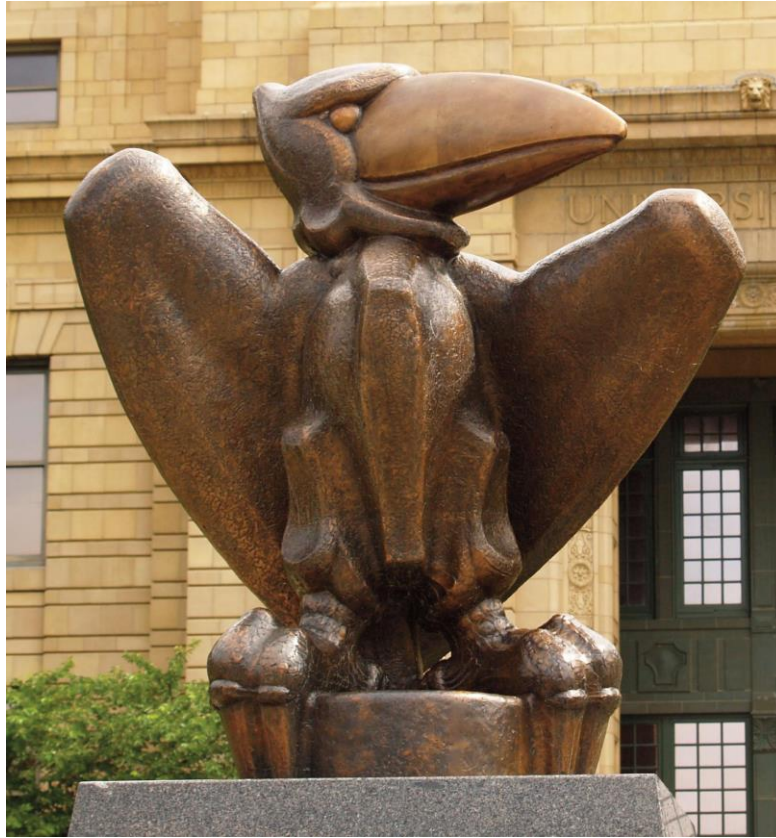
William Allan White

Go back out of Stoffer-Flint Hall and turn left down the side walk to Wescoe Hall. Take the outside stairs down to the first level. Enter the building and go left and then right down the long hall to see Clark Wescoe at the end of the hall.



6 Clark Wescoe

Go back out of Wescoe, cross Jayhawk Boulevard, and see the Academic Jayhawk, in front of the main entrance to Strong Hall. The Kansas University Sculpture Foundry mentioned in the inscription on its base is the first lost wax process sculpture foundry in the nation.



7

The Academic Jayhawk

Continue past the Academic Jayhawk and go in the main doors of Strong Hall. Proceed straight ahead across the lobby to find Elden's portrait of Frank Strong.



8

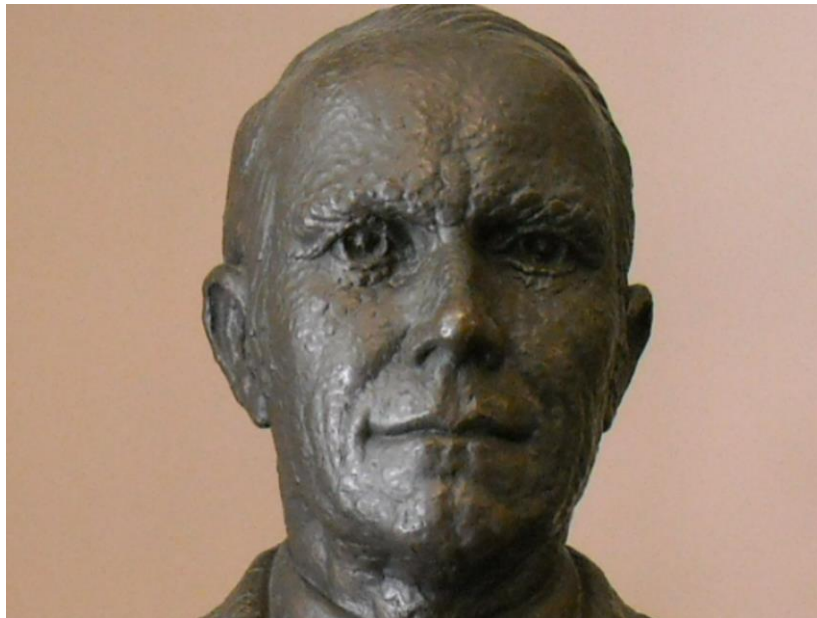
Frank Strong

Back up ten paces, go right past the building directory, and see The Seal of the Regents of the Kansas Universities on the wall.



9 The Regent's Seal

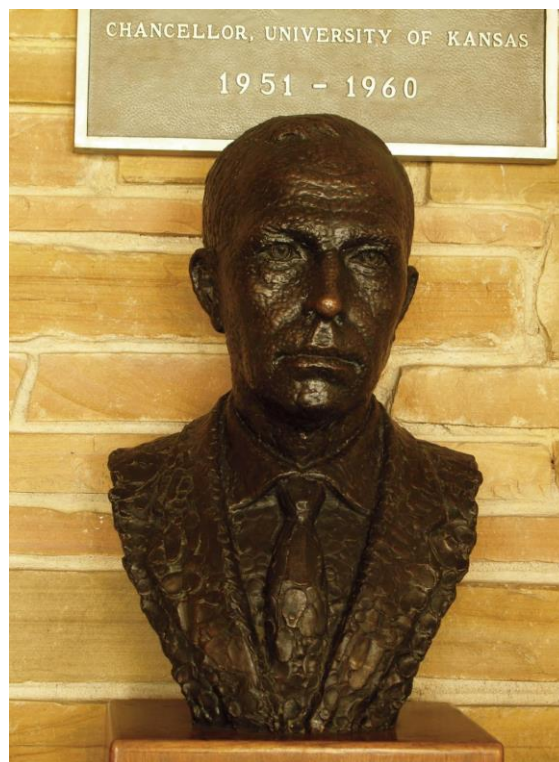
Turn around and walk back down the long hall, turn left, and exit the West doors of the building. Go down the sidewalk to Jayhawk Boulevard and turn right a short distance to Poplar Lane. Cross Poplar and turn right on the sidewalk to the East entrance to Snow Hall. Francis Snow is on the left of the foyer just inside the door.



10

Francis Snow

Go back out of Snow Hall and turn right on Poplar Lane to Jayhawk Boulevard again. Cross it and turn right. Notice the University Seal out in front of Hoch Auditorium on your left. Elden designed the seal, although another sculptor made this particular copy of it. Keep going West down Jayhawk Boulevard past the Chi Omega fountain to University Drive. Turn left down the hill on University Drive to Hoch Auditoria Drive. Cross Hoch Auditoria Drive and turn left into the main entrance to Murphy Hall. Elden's portrait bust of Franklin Murphy is past the ticket office across the lobby to your left.



11

Franklin Murphy

Turn left in front of Crafton-Preyer Theater and enter the doors of Swarthout recital hall, again on your left. Elden's bust of Donald Swarthout is on your left in the foyer of the hall.



12

Donald Swarthout

Go back out the front entrance of Murphy Hall and go left on the sidewalk past the T-intersection of Irving Hill Road. Turn left up the stairs to the West entrance of the Music Library in Murphy Hall. Walk up past the building directory on your right and then turn right into the Thomas Gorton Music and Dance Library. Thomas Gorton is next to the stacks straight ahead past the magnetic detectors inside the doors.



Thomas Gorton

Go back out the West doors from the Music Library and cross University drive. Turn left down the far sidewalk to Allan Field House. Enter the Booth Family Hall of Athletics through the doors behind the statue of "Phog" Allan. Go through the lobby and you will see Elden's portrait of "Skipper" Williams on your right among the "K.U. Olympians" displays.

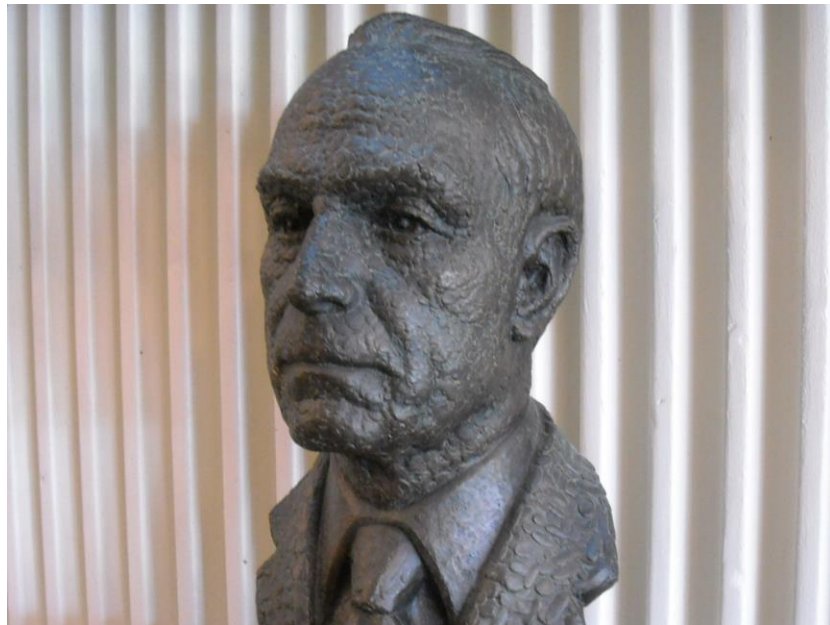


14

"Skipper" Williams

We will now have to leave the East Campus to see the last two of Elden's works at K.U..

Take 19th Street West across Iowa Street onto West Campus. Turn right onto Constant Avenue, which curves around left past the Endowment Association, and turn left into the Nichols Building guest parking. Take the sidewalk West to Raymond Nichols Hall and enter the building through the front doors. Elden's portrait bust of Raymond Nichols in on the right side of the lobby.



15

Raymond Nichols

Go back out of Nichols Hall and head left past guest parking. Cross Constant Avenue to the gate of the Pioneer Cemetery just beyond. Kong Jung Lee's grave marker is located on the right side of the cemetery about half way back.



Jung Kong Lee" grave marker

We will now have to leave the KU Campus to see Elden's last two sculptures.

Go back down Constant Avenue to Iowa. Turn right and proceed to 23rd. Street. Turn right and find that 23rd. Street has changed at the intersection into Clinton Parkway. Go West down Clinton Parkway to Cassold. Turn right on Cassold and take the first left into the HyVee parking entrance. Go left along the near side of the parking lot to the Lawrence Bank and park in the lot along the West side of the building. Get out of the car. Walk around to the South side of the building along Clinton Parkway to see Paranoia.



17 Paranoia

Get back in the car and retrace your route to Cassold and turn left. Drive North down Cassold to 6th. Street. Turn right and go East down 6th St. to Indiana Street. Turn left onto Indiana and go North to 3rd. Street. Go past 3rd. Street. and follow the gravel road down into Burcham Park. See the "Keepers of our Universe in the parking lot next to the river.



18 Keepers of our Universe (Male)



19 Keepers of our Universe (Female). Elden used to swim in the Kansas River, behind the Guardian, as a child.



20 Elden Tefft in front of his home in Lawrence. 2010